



Oregon Water Resources Congress

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September 27, 2005

The Honorable Greg Walden
United States House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Attn: Colby Marshall

Re: **H.R. 3824**, 'The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005'

Dear Congressman Walden:

I am writing to express the Oregon Water Resources Congress' (OWRC) support for H.R. 3824, 'The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA) of 2005'. OWRC represents Oregon agricultural water suppliers including irrigation, water control, drainage and other districts, as well as ports, cities, farmers and other agribusiness associates.

OWRC is not advocating that the ESA be "gutted" or dismantled. We are simply interested in making it work better to achieve its goals to protect and recover threatened and endangered species. OWRC is a member of the National Water Resources Association and through that organization has supported NESARC's efforts to reform the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Our member districts have been burdened by unintended consequences of the ESA that have developed over the thirty-one years since it was passed, all the while investing district resources in efforts to protect endangered and threatened species. OWRC members have been and continue to be active partners with other public and private organizations and individuals working to ensure stream flow, screen irrigation diversions, improve fish passages at diversions, and improve habitat to protect endangered and threatened fish throughout Oregon. Our members want to be able to continue those efforts knowing that their investments will lead to positive results for the threatened and endangered species instead of fearing their actions will lead to enforcement actions under the ESA.

OWRC supports TESRA as an effort to provide needed reform with appropriate relief for parties who are working in good faith to protect threatened and endangered species, such as our member districts.

Sincerely,

Anita Winkler
Executive Director